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TRANSMIT THE ATTACHED TO

Date: August 4, 2003

Name:	Chester T. Barry	Name:
Company:	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	Company:
Fax:	703.872.9077	Fax:
Confirming No:	703.306.5921	Confirming No:

Name:	Name:
Company:	Company:
Fax:	Fax:
Confirming No:	Confirming No:

FAX COVER SHEET INFORMATION

From:	R. Thomas Payne	Client No.:	207275.0478
Phone:	203.351.4192	Infortext:	5190
Email:	tpayne@cl-law.com	Pages including cover sheet:	8
Personal Fax:	203.708.3943	Confirming No.:	203.351.4372

COMMENTS

Examiner Barry:

As discussed, copies of The International Search Report and Written Opinion follow. I certainly appreciate your taking the time to review this matter with me.

Many thanks.

R. Thomas Payne

.StmLib1:1024894.1 08/04/03

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the above address via the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 207275.0478	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US02/17448	International filing date (day/month/year) 04 June 2002 (04.06.2002)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 04 June 2001 (04.06.2001)
Applicant CUNO, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the Report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

as suggested by the applicant.

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



None of the figures

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/17448

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

Disclosed herein is a multi-layered (1, 2, 3) composite microporous membrane comprising in at least one layer (1) a highly electropositive hydrophilic material distributed throughout wherein the material is capable of irreversibly binding nucleic acid and, optionally, at least one layer (2) where the material is associated with sequence-specific peptide nucleic acids, permitting the simultaneous or sequential capture, amplification and/or identification of specific nucleic acid sequences of interest. Also disclosed herein are methods of use of the composite membranes of the invention in applications based on the sequence-specific capture and/or amplification and identification of nucleic acid from complex biological samples.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/17448

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C12Q 1/68
US CL : 435/6

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 435/6

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,527,672 A (MANSFIELD et al.) 18 June 1996, column 1 lines 13-39, column 3 lines 55-60, column 4 lines 38-47, column 9 lines 19-39, column 10 lines 1-3, 11-13	1 - 31

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
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* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 September 2002 (17.09.2002)	Date of mailing of the international search report 30 SEP 2002
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer Chester T. Barry Telephone No. 703-308-0651
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:
 DANIEL F. COUGHLIN
 CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD
 700 STATE ST., P.O. BOX 1960
 NEW HAVEN, CT 06509-1960

RECEIVED
MAY 09 2003

CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)

		Date of Mailing (day/month/year) 05 MAY 2003
Applicant's or agent's file reference 207275.0478		REPLY DUE within 2 months/days from the above date of mailing
International application No. PCT/US02/17448	International filing date (day/month/year) 04 June 2002 (04.06.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year) 04 June 2001 (04.06.2001)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): C12Q 1/68 and US Cl.: 435/6		
Applicant CUNO, INC.		

1. This written opinion is the first (first, etc.) drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the opinion
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2 (a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension. See rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4. For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis. For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 04 October 2003 (04.10.2003).

DOCKETED MM 1/9/03
 DUE DATE 7/5/03
 STATUTORY DATE

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US
Commissioner of Patents and TrademarksAuthorized officer
Chester T. Barry

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/US02/17448

I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:^{*}

the international application as originally filed

the description:
pages 1-37, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

the claims:
pages 38-42, as originally filed
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

the drawings:
pages 1-17, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

the sequence listing part of the description:
pages NONE, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in printed form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages NONE

the claims, Nos. NONE

the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. This opinion has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an Invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed".

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.
PCT/US02/17448**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)

Claims 2-13, 16-20, 22-23, 25, 27-31 YES
Claims 1, 14, 15, 21, 24, 26 NO

Inventive Step (IS)

Claims NONE YES
Claims 1-31 NO

Industrial Applicability (IA)

Claims 1-31 YES
Claims NONE NO**2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS**

Claims 1, 14, 15, 21, 24, and 26 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by USP 5527672 to MANSFIELD et al. Mansfield describes a method of making a substrate comprising a microporous membrane and a highly electropositive hydrophilic material capable of irreversibly binding one or more sequence-specific nucleic acids operatively positioned on or within the microporous membrane. Mansfield also describes confirming the presence of target nucleic acid derived from animal or vegetable sources in a sample known to include said acid by providing the aforementioned membrane, contacting the sample with the membrane, hybridizing the acid, removing non-hybridized portions, dissociating the acid from PNA, and collecting the acid. See column 1 lines 13 - 39, column 3 lines 55 - 60, column 4 lines 38-47, column 9 lines 19 - 39, and column 10 lines 1 - 3 and 11 - 13.

Claims 2 - 13, 16 - 20, 22 - 23, 25, and 27 - 31 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Mansfield. The limitations recited in the dependent claims are within the level of skill evidenced by Mansfield and therefore do not involve an inventive step. See column 1 lines 13 - 39, column 3 lines 55 - 60, column 4 lines 38-47, column 9 lines 19 - 39, and column 10 lines 1 - 3 and 11 - 13.

Claims 1 - 31 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.
PCT/US02/17448

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

TIME LIMIT:

The time limit set for response to a Written Opinion may not be extended. 37 CFR 1.484(d). Any response received after the expiration of the time limit set in the Written Opinion will not be considered in preparing the International Preliminary Examination Report.